

THOMAS COLLINS.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 190.]

MARCH 5, 1840.

Mr. S. WILLIAMS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

## REPORT:

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Thomas Collins, report:*

Upon an examination of this case, the committee find that a report was made to the House of Representatives the 2d day of January, 1839; in which report they agree, and adopt the same as their report.

JANUARY 2, 1839.

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Thomas Collins, report:*

The petitioner states that in July, 1814, he entered the service of the United States, (during the late war,) in the county of Giles and State of Virginia, under the command of Lieutenants John Shannon and William French; marched to Richmond, thence to Norfolk, and was then attached to the 4th regiment Virginia militia, commanding at the Peach Orchard; and that he was some time in the fall marched to Fort Barbour, where the troops were compelled to encamp in the open field, the fort being unfinished; that they remained there until January thereafter; that the water frequently, during the time they remained there, ran around them and under them about shoe-deep; that he was attacked with what was supposed to be rheumatism, and was unable, in consequence thereof, to perform and discharge his duty for near seven weeks. As soon as he was able to perform his duty, there was a call made upon the troops there stationed to volunteer to man some gunboats to make an attack upon a British 74-gun ship, for which service he volunteered. He served, in all, six months, and was regularly discharged, and on his return home was again attacked with the rheumatic pains; that he has been subject to them, and very much afflicted ever since with said pains; that he removed to the State of Tennessee about the year 1817; that for the last eleven years he has been almost entirely helpless; that for the last eight years he has been unable to walk, except upon crutches; and for the last three years has been unable to rise in his bed or feed himself.

The foregoing statement is sworn to.

*Proof.*—The petitioner proves, by two witnesses, that he entered and served in the late war for the time he has stated, and that he was afflicted with rheumatism, as he has stated, during the tour; that he was again attacked on his way home. There is no affidavit of a physician accompanying the papers; no certificate or affidavit of any officer under whom he served; no proof of his long suffering; nor is there any proof of his present condition, except an affidavit of a single individual, upon the back of the petition, who states that he has for a long time been well acquainted with the petitioner and his situation, and that he is well satisfied that the statement of the petitioner is no fiction, but is lamentably true. The committee are of opinion that the petitioner has not made out such a case as to entitle him to a pension; they therefore recommend the rejection of said petition.

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was recommitted the petition of Thomas Collins, report :*

That the objections to allowing the said Collins a pension, as reported in their first report, are removed by a letter, filed with the papers in this case, addressed to the committee by the honorable William B. Carter; the committee have, therefore, determined to allow the petitioner a pension, and accordingly report a bill for that purpose.

REPRESENTATIVES' HALL, January 10, 1839.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to state to you that I have known Thomas Collins, of Washington county, Tennessee, for the last twelve or fifteen years, during the whole of which time he has been very seriously afflicted with rheumatism; and for five or six years could not go without the aid of crutches; and for the last three years, or thereabouts, said Collins has been entirely and totally confined to his bed, unable to turn himself, or exercise a joint in his system, except that of his neck. He can turn his head about as he lies upon his pillow, but cannot move in any other way. Mr. Collins, while able, was a very industrious man, and sustained a good character for integrity. He is now, and has been for many years, an object of pity. I would further say that I know nothing, of my own knowledge, of the services of Mr. Collins in the army, but that the general understanding in the country seems to be that the afflictions under which he has so long labored were produced by excessive exposure while in service at Norfolk. I saw Mr. Collins in November last; was at his house; he was then in the condition before stated, and as I had seen him for about the last three years. Mr. Collins's family is very dependent and helpless, being, as I believe, composed of females only.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. B. CARTER.

*The COMMITTEE on Invalid Pensions.*